

Serial No. 10/664,077  
Docket No. H64-154708M/MNN

3

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice and disclaimer, and amend the claims as follows:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an electrostatic charge bearing member that bears an electrostatic charge latent image thereon;  
an electrostatic charge image developing developer;  
a developing unit for supplying said electrostatic charge image developing developer to the electrostatic charge bearing member to visualize the electrostatic charge latent image as a toner image;  
a transferring unit for transferring the toner image formed on the electrostatic charge bearing member onto a recording medium; and  
a fixing unit for fixing the toner image onto the recording medium by applying at least a heat to the recording medium that bears the toner image[[;]]  
wherein the electrostatic charge image developing developer is formed by mixing an electrostatic charge image developing toner that comprises at least a fixing resin and a hydrocarbon wax whose crystallinity is less than 93 % and whose melting point, which is defined as a maximum peak of the absorbed heat quantity curve at a time of temperature rise, is set in a range of 50°C to 120°C in a DSC curve measured by the differential scanning calorimeter into a carrier,  
wherein when the electrostatic charge image developing developer is stirred for 24 hours at an atmospheric temperature that is lower than a glass transition point of the toner and is higher than 45 °C, an amount of maximum change in a quantity of charge of the

Serial No. 10/664,077  
Docket No. H64-154708M/MNN

4

electrostatic charge image developing toner is smaller than 20  $\mu\text{C/g}$  and an amount of contamination of the carrier due to the electrostatic charge image developing toner less than 0.4 wt%, and

wherein by using the electrostatic charge image developing developer, degradation of picture quality due to continuous printing is hard to occur.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the fixing unit comprises a contact-type thermal fixing unit.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said apparatus comprises a high speed printer having a printer speed of greater than 10 pages per minute.

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said apparatus comprises a laser printer.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said apparatus comprises a high speed printer having a printer speed of greater than 60 pages per minute.

Serial No. 10/664,077  
Docket No. H64-154708M/MNN

5

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said fixing unit comprises:

a heat roller comprising an aluminum core coated with a fluororesin and a heater lamp arranged a center portion of said heat roller; and

a back-up roller comprising an aluminum core coated with a silicon rubber layer having a rubber hardness of approximately 30 degrees,

wherein fixing conditions of said fixing unit comprise a process speed of 26.7 cm/sec, a pushing load of 50 kgf, and a width of a contact area between said heat roller and said back-up roller of approximately 7mm.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said developing unit comprises:

a photoreceptor; and

a developing roller,

wherein a developing gap between a surface of said photoreceptor and a surface of said developing roller comprises 0.8 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a peripheral speed ratio of said developing roller to said photoreceptor is 3.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said developing unit comprises a plurality of developing rollers.

16. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9 [[4]], wherein said developing unit comprises a center feed developing unit.

Serial No. 10/664,077  
Docket No. H64-154708M/MNN

6

17. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a photosensitive drum,

wherein a first developing roller is rotated in a same direction as said photosensitive drum and a second developing roller is rotated in an opposite direction as said photosensitive drum.

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein degradation of picture quality does not occur at a continuous printing more than ~~50~~ 200 thousand pages.

19. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an electrostatic charge bearing member that bears an electrostatic charge latent image thereon;  
an electrostatic charge image developing developer;  
a developing unit for supplying said electrostatic charge image developing developer to the electrostatic charge bearing member to visualize the electrostatic charge latent image as a toner image;  
a transferring unit for transferring the toner image formed on the electrostatic charge bearing member onto a recording medium; and  
a fixing unit for fixing the toner image onto the recording medium by applying at least a heat to the recording medium that bears the toner image,  
wherein the electrostatic charge image developing developer is formed by mixing an electrostatic charge image developing toner that comprises at least a fixing resin and a hydrocarbon wax whose crystallinity is less than 93% and whose melting point, which is

Serial No. 10/664,077  
Docket No. H64-154708M/MNN

7

defined as a maximum peak of the absorbed heat quantity curve at a time of temperature rise, is set in a range of 50°C to 120°C in a DSC curve measured by the differential scanning calorimeter, into a carrier,

wherein the electrostatic charge image developing developer is prepared such that the carrier is a magnetite carrier on the surface of which the resin is coated by an appropriate amount and which has a particle size of about 90 µm is employed and the mixed rate of the toner and the carrier is set to about 2.5wt%, and

wherein when the electrostatic charge image developing developer is filled into the small one roller developer of the magnetic roller fixed type, then the developer is stirred while setting a roller diameter of about 30 mm, a roller peripheral speed of about 1400 mm/sec, and regulating gage of the developer of about 0.6mm without the supply of the toner during the stirring, and then the developer is held appropriately while controlling the atmospheric temperature to a temperature that is lower than a glass transition point of the toner and is higher than 45°C until 24 hours has lapsed after the start of the stirring, an amount of maximum change in a quantity of charge of the electrostatic charge image developing toner is smaller than 20 µC/g and an amount of contamination of the carrier due to the electrostatic charge latent image developing toner is less than 0.4wt%.